



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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PEACH PRODUCTION

The SOUTH CAROLINA peach crop is forecast at 60,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast, but 20 percent below 2005, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. A late frost and freeze occurred during bloom and early fruit development. Widely scattered hailstorms also caused extensive damage to some producers' peaches. Other growers are reporting a good peach crop. Tropical storm Alberto provided ample precipitation for most of the State during the middle of June. Additional thunderstorms continued to provide moisture later in June aiding in fruit development and size.

The July 2006 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.06 million tons, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below the 2004 crop. Half of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while 12 States decreased their production from the previous season, and 2 States showed no change.

The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 380,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 21 percent below the 2005 crop. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 380,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 1 percent below the 2005 crop.

Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 42,000 tons, down 16 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 5 percent from 2005.

The North Carolina crop is equal to last year, at 6,000 tons.